

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: KILIC STATEMENT ON SISMIK (HORA)

1. OCTOBER 21 TERCUMAN AND SON HAVADIS NEWSPAPERS BOTH
PUBLISHED A AKAJANS (MEDITERRANEAN NEWS AGENCY) REPORT OF A
SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS STATEMENT BY MINENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KILIC ON FUTURE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIC. KILIC REPORTEDLY
TOLD THE AKAJANS

REPORTER THAT THE TURKISH SEISMIC RESEARCH SHIP SISMIK,
BECAUSE BAD WEATHER HAD PREVENTED IT FROM COMPLETING
ITS MISSION, MIGHT HAVE TO "GO TO THE AEGEAN AGAIN FOR A
FEW DAYS OF PROSPECTING. EXPERTS WILL TAKE A DECISION
ABOUT IT." KILIC STATED THAT THE SISMIK WOULD PROBABLY
SET OUT ON A NEW MISSION ON OCTOBER 25. HE NOTED THAT
URGENT SEISMIC SURVEYS WERE NEEDED N THE MARMARA AND
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THE BLACK SEA AND THAT THE SISMIK "WILL BE DISPATCHED TO

THE MARMARA AND AKCAKOCA (BLACK SEA COAST) WHERE IT WILL GATHER NECESSARY INFORMATION AND ASSIST IN STARTING SOUNDINGS IMMEDIATELY."

2. THE REPORT STATED THAT KILIC SAID PROCESSING OF THE DATA FROM THE SISMİK'S FIRST THREE VAOYAGES HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THE FINAL RESULTS FOR ALL DATA COLLECTED BY THE SISMİK MIGHT BE OBTAINED BY JANUARY. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE AEGEAN "PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MAKE IT WORTHWHILE CARRYING OUT OFF-SHORE OIL PROSPECTING."

3. SAME DAY CUMHURİYET REPORTED THAT TURKISH OFFICIALS EXPECTED "CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENTS" ON THE AIRSPACE TALKS IN PARIS. CONCERNING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS IN BERN, THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE TWO DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN LEGAL AND JURIDICAL ARGUMENTS, BUT RATHER WOULD DIRECTLY DISCUSS THE DEMARCATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. COMMENT: THE FKILIC STATEMENT IS AMBIGUOUS AS TO WHETHER THE NEXT STAGE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SISMİK WILL BE TO CONCLUDE ITS AEGEAN RESEARCH OR TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN THE MARMARA AND BLACK SEA. AT LEAST ONE TURKISH NEWSPAPER AND THE LOCAL TURKISH CORRESPONDENT FOR ASSOCIATED PRESS INTERPRETED THE KILIC STATEMENT AS INDICATING THAT THE SISMİK MIGHT RETURN TO THE AEGEAN IN A FEW DAYS. WE ARE SEEKING A CLARIFICATION FROM THE MFA.
MACOMBER

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